

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
UNITED NATIONAL SPECIALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

Docket No.: 07-CV-10934
(PKC)

-against-

1854 MONROE AVENUE H.D.F.C. and
EULALIA BALAGUER,

Defendants.

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Of Counsel:

Michael C. Beatty, Esq.

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UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
UNITED NATIONAL SPECIALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Docket No: 07-CV-109334
(PKC)

Plaintiff,

NOTICE OF CROSS MOTION

-against-

1854 MONROE AVENUE H.D.F.C. and
EULALIA BALAGUER,

Defendants.
-----X

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that upon the annexed Affirmation of Michael C. Beatty dated June 13, 2008 and the exhibits annexed thereto and upon all prior pleading and proceedings had herein, the undersigned will cross-move this Court, before the Honorable P. Kevin Castel on a date and time to be designated by the Court, at the United States Courthouse for the Southern District of New York, located at 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007, for an order vacating the default judgment as to 1854 Monroe Avenue H.D.F.C. pursuant to Rules 55 (c) and 60(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and for an Order pursuant to Rule 56(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for summary judgment on behalf of the defendant, Eulalia Balaguer on the ground that the plaintiff failed to timely notify its insured of a disclaimer of coverage and dismissing the Complaint with prejudice together with such other and further relief as this Court deems just, equitable and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
June 13, 2008

FELDMAN, KRONFELD & BEATTY

By: /s/

MICHAEL C. BEATTY

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TO:

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UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
UNITED NATIONAL SPECIALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Docket No: 07-CV-109334
(PKC)

Plaintiff,

56.1 RESPONSE

-against-

1854 MONROE AVENUE H.D.F.C. and
EULALIA BALAGUER,

Defendants.

-----X

Defendant, EULALIA BALAGUER, by its attorneys, FELDMAN, KRONFELD &
BEATTY, as and for their required response to the statement of material facts, pursuant to Rule
56.1 of the Local Rules of this Court, states as follows:

1. United National issued a policy of insurance to 1854 Monroe Avenue H.D.F.C.
numbered L718054 for the period from May 5, 2006 through May 5, 2007.a

ADMITTED.

2. Eulalia Balaguer alleges in her complaint in an underlying personal injury actions
commenced against Monroe in the Supreme Court for the State of New York, Bronx County,
captioned Eulalia Balaguer v. 1854 Monroe Avenue Housing and Development Corporation,
under index number 15713/07 that on or about December 20, 2006, while lawfully on the
premises located at 1854 Monroe Avenue, Bronx, New York, which is onwed,operated and
maintained by Monroe she was caused to fall and injure herself due to the negligence of Monroe.

ADMITTED.

3. On July 20, 2007, United National received its first notice of the occurrence and
claim involving Balaguer's fall on December 20, 2006; this was a delay of seven months.

The defendant ADMITS that a notice of the occurrence and claim was received by United National on July 20, 2007. The plaintiff has no knowledge as to whether it was the first notice. The plaintiff ADMITS that the period from December 20, 2006 to July 20, 2007 was a period of seven months but does not admit to the use of the term “delay”

4. On August 2, 2007, United National sent a letter to Monroe urging Monroe to cooperate with United National’s investigation into Balaguer’s claim so that United National could render a coverage decision, or United National would be forced to disclaim coverage based on Monroe’s lack of cooperation.

The defendant ADMITS that the record contains a letter dated August 2, 2007. There is no proof of mailing of such letter nor was same received by the injured party and and has no legal weight as a result. See Colon v. N.Y. Mutual Fire Ins. Co., 801 N.Y.S.2d 231 (2nd Dept 2005).

5. On August 21, 2007, after having an opportunity to adequately investigate Balaguer’s claim, United National disclaimed coverage to Monroe and Balaguer based on their failure to comply with the policy’s precondition to coverate that United National receive timely notice of an occurrence or claim.

The defendant ADMITS that your affirmant received the referenced letter. There is no proof of mailing of the letter to the insured or the injured party. There was no such need for an “adequate investigation” and based on the theory of timely notice was a fatal delay in notifying the insured of the carrier’s late decision.

6. On or about October 9, 2007 United National commenced the instant Declaratory Judgment action against its insured Monroe and the claimant Balaguer, seeking declaration by the Court that United National has no duty to defend and indemnify either party with regards to

the underlying personal injury action commenced by Balaguer against Monroe.

ADMITTED.

7. In the complaint, United National sought a declaration that it had no duty to defend or indemnify Monroe and Balaguer, based on their failure to provide United National with timely notice of the occurrence and claim giving rise to the underlying personal injury action commenced by Balaguer against Monroe in violation of a precondition to coverage under the policy issued by United National to Monroe.

ADMITTED.

8. Monroe failed to answer United National's declaratory judgment complaint or otherwise appear in this coverage action, and United National on notice to all parties, filed a motion for a default judgment against Monroe on or about March 20, 2008.

ADMITTED to the extent that at the time of the filing of the summary judgment motion, 1854 had not appeared. As of present, counsel McDermott & McDermott have filed a notice of appearance.

9. Neither Monroe nor Balaguer submitted opposition to United National's motion for default despite having a full and fair opportunity to do so.

The reason that no opposition was filed at the time of the return of the motion is detailed on pages 9 and 10 of the Affirmation in Opposition.

10. On or about April 8, 2008, this Court entered a default judgment against Monroe and Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed that United National has no obligation to defend or indemnify its insured Monroe in the underlying personal injury action brought by Balaguer.

ADMITTED to the extent that a default was entered and the Court should interpret the Order as it was intended.

Dated: New York, New York
June 13, 2008

/S/ _____
MICHAEL C. BEATTY, (4144)

UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
UNITED NATIONAL SPECIALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Docket No: 07-CV-109334
(PKC)

Plaintiff,

56.1 STATEMENT

-against-

1854 MONROE AVENUE H.D.F.C. and
EULALIA BALAGUER,

Defendants.

-----X

Defendant, EULALIA BALAGUER, by its attorneys, FELDMAN, KRONFELD & BEATTY, as and for their required statement of material facts, pursuant to Rule 56.1 of the Local Rules of this Court, state that there are not material issues of fact with respect to the following:

11. United National issued a policy of insurance to 1854 Monroe Avenue H.D.F.C. numbered L718054 for the period from May 5, 2006 through May 5, 2007.

12. Eulalia Balaguer filed suit in the Supreme Court, Bronx County bearing index number 15713/2007 on May 30, 2007 naming 1854 Monroe Avenue H.D.F.C. as a party defendant. .

13. The aforestated policy was in effect and provided coverage to 1854 Monroe Avenue H.D.F.C. for the type of claim alleged by Eulalia Balaguer the stated lawsuit.

14. The exact date of notice to the plaintiff carrier is unknown however, a notice of this matter was received by the plaintiff on July 20, 2007.

15. The plaintiff carrier conducted an extensive investigation of this claim and solicited and obtained an extension of time to answer in the underlying Bronx case.

16. The carrier issued a disclaimer of coverage based on the sole claim of untimely notice on August 21, 2007.

17. The carrier failed to interpose a timely Answer in the underlying action.

18. A default judgment was entered against 1854 Monroe Avenue H.D.F.C. on April 8, 2008.

19. The allegation that the carrier issued a disclaimer on August 2, 2007 in its complaint is untrue.

20. There is no proof of mailing or other proof of service of any correspondence to the insured.

21. A notice of disclaimer must be served on all concerned parties in a timely fashion.

22. New York law has defined timely notice of disclaimer to be as short as 34 days.

See Sirius America Insurance Company v. Vigo Construction Corp., et al., 48 AD3rd 450, 852 NYS2d 176 (2nd Dept. 2008).

23. The underlying merits of the complaint by United National have never been litigated on their merits..

24. There has not been a full and fair opportunity to litigate the underlying issues by the defendants.

25. A disclaimer notice was not sent out for at least 32 days.

26. The mailing of a disclaimer notice based on lack of timely notice to the carrier after 32 days is proof of an untimely disclaimer as a matter of New York law.

WHEREFORE, the defendant, EULALIA BALAGUER, requests an order from the Court granting summary judgment to the defendant and dismissing the complaint of UNITED NATIONAL SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY together with such other and further relief

as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
June 13, 2008

/S/_____
MICHAEL C. BEATTY, (4144)